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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 431
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION To honor the memory of Robert T. Dennis,
Johnson City, Tennessee businessman.

WHEREAS, The members of the Tennessee General Assembly and the residents of Johnson City were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Robert Taylor Dennis, a successful member of the city's business community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis was born and reared in Newport, Tennessee and started his restaurant career when he was only seventeen years old, buying a small hamburger place from a man for whom he had worked for two years; and

WHEREAS, From that small beginning, he built the Coffee Pot Restaurant, and then expanded to have a restaurant in Maryville; his partner was the late Senator James Mack Ray; and

WHEREAS, After Senator Ray was called into the service of his country, they sold the two restaurants; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis then went to Kingsport and bought the Peggy Ann Restaurant, before being called into military service himself; he nobly served four years in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, After his military service, he returned home and bought the Beverly Court and Restaurant in Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, Under his astute management, the Beverly Court and Restaurant became a very popular local gathering place; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis then became a partner in what was then Tennessee Plastics, Inc., a small electric heating business; and

WHEREAS, At this time, with a vision of future expansion, Mr. Dennis was also wisely buying up property along Roan Street; and

\ WHEREAS, Under Mr. Dennis's outstanding leadership, Tennessee Plastics, Inc. shortened its name to TPI Corp. and built a factory at the corner of Brown Mill Road and North Roan Street and a small shopping Center; and

WHEREAS, TPI then bought the old Morton Brothers property and built a second building; and

WHEREAS, TPI then expanded its business to include the manufacture of water heaters and later electric fans; and

WHEREAS, The growing company next bought the old ITT Building at Gray, Tennessee; at this time TPI also had a factory, at Piney Flats, Tennessee which made thermostats; and

WHEREAS TPI now owns factories in Postoria, Ohio, known as Postoria Industries, and in Finley, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary company, which now manufactures electrical heating, air ventilation red heating products, infrared products, industrial fans and thermostats, has bought out many of its competitors and has become the largest heat manufacturing business in the United States due, in large part, to Mr. Dennis's singular vision and guidance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis also owned North Side Package Store and was a partner in D and H Realty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dennis is survived by his loving and supportive wife, Alene A. Dennis, and daughter, Robin Tanya Dennis; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of Robert T. Dennis, one of Tennessee's most prominent businessmen; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Robert T. Dennis and express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.